

State Board of Education – Funding for New Personnel

June 7, 2018 | Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Background

On January 29th, during the 2018 General Session, the Utah State Board of Education presented on several requests related to staffing at their office the current state of many of their proprietary IT systems. (presentation can be found here: <https://le.utah.gov/interim/2018/pdf/00000700.pdf>)

This presentation included a request for appropriations as follows:

1. Program Evaluators - \$313,300 (Ongoing) & \$83,300 (One-time)
 - a. 2 FTEs;
 - b. Provide the Board with the capacity to do more analysis in the time-frame needed for policymaking and use performance measurement to improve the quality of program implementation.
 - c. Focus the analysts' work would be rapid response descriptive analyses at the policy design phase of the policy cycle and use of performance measurement to improve program implementation and the ability to evaluate effectiveness.
2. Internal Audit Hotline and Risk Specialist - \$145,000 (Ongoing)
 - a. 1 FTE
 - b. The Internal Audit division maintains a hotline that stakeholders may contact to ask questions and/or report concerns. From FY 2015 to the end of FY 2017, the division has seen an increase of 539 percent in hotline activity. This means less time spent directly on audit activities.
 - c. The position will also help establish a more consistent and comprehensive approach to identifying, assessing, and evaluating risk management.
3. Financial Operations Staff - \$230,000 (Ongoing) & \$75,000 (One-time)
 - a. 2 FTE
 - b. Charter School Finance Expert: the number of charter schools has grown from 54 in FY 2008 to 113 in FY 2018. This position will help address this growing demand through monitoring and reporting of financial data, audits, and provide training for charter school business officials.
 - c. Support for Student Support Services: The Board currently has 0.55 FTE appropriated in the 2017 General Session to support the state budget components of special education formulas, grant compliance, and fiscal training. This would make that part-time FTE a full-time FTE.
4. Restorative Discipline Services - \$335,000 (Ongoing)
 - a. 1 FTE
 - b. There is no current budget for this function. The concept is a combination of H.B. 239 (2017 General Session) assistance, Board rule compliance, school administrator and school resource officer training, and administrative budget and data collection assistance.

Concerns Raised by Subcommittee Members

During the discussion on this issue, subcommittee members raised the following concerns:

- Ability to hire qualified candidates.
- Any system savings from the funding of these positions to offset costs?
- How will the Board prioritize the funding they have been given?
- How will the one-time funding be used for personnel?

2018 General Session Actions

The Legislature appropriated ongoing and one-time funding to the State Board of Education and directed that they prioritize requested positions.

- Funded \$543,000 ongoing in FY 2019 and \$543,000 one-time in FY 2018 to meet priority needs.
- Included the following intent language for these funds:
 - *“The Legislature intends that the State Board of Education prioritize the expenditure of funds appropriated for the State Board Program Support between requested full-time equivalent positions and programmatic cost. The Legislature further intends that the Board report to the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee by June 30, 2018 on the intended expenditure of these funds in FY 2019.”*